Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 28204 121038Z

10
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /069 W
---------- 028986
R 121000Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4532

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 28204

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, TH
SUBJ: ORGANIZED LABOR AND NARC

SUMMARY: IN ITS FIRST ANNOUNCEMNT ON LABOR THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COUNCIL (NARC) REQUESTED ALL EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS NOT REPEAT NOT FORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LABOR RELATIONS ACT OF 1975 TO DISBAND. A SUBSEQUENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR STATED ALL LABOR LAWS WERE STILL IN EFFECT BUT THAT THE RIGHT TO STRIKE OR STAGE A LOCKOUT WAS PROHIBITED DURING THE PERIOD OF MARTIAL LAW.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE LABOR RELATIONS ACT OF 1975 (LRA) ALLOWED UNIONS TO BE FORMED BY THE EMPLOYEES OF A SINGLE EMPLOYER OR BY EMPLOYEES PERFORMING THE SAME KIND OF WORK REGARDLESS OF EMPLOYER. THE LRA ALSO ALLOWED LABOR FEDERATIONS TO BE FORMED AMONG UNIONS OF A SINGLE EMPLOYER OR AMONG UNIONS IN THE SAME TYPE OF WORK. DESPITE THE LIMITATIONS OF THE LRA, UNIONS OF DIFFERENT EMPLOYERS AND AMONG DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES HAD GROUPED TOGETHER TO FORM TWO NATIONAL LABOR BODIES; THE THAI LABOR COUNCIL (TLC) (APPROXIMATELY 140 MEMBER UNIONS) AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THAI LABOR (NCTL) (APPROXIMATELY 20 MEMBER UNIONS) RELYING ON SECTION 44 OF THE 1974 CONSITUTION WHICH BESTOWED THE RIGHT TO FORM UNIONS AND FEDERATIONS ON ALL THAI CITIZENS. THE LEFTIST LABOR COORDINATION CENTER (LCC), A TROUBLESOME GROUPING OF LABOR AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 28204 121038Z

STUDENT ACTIVISTS, AVOIDED ESTABLISHING ANY FORMAL STRUCTURE AS IT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

IONDUCTED WORKER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PROVIDED ADVICE TO STRIKING WORKERS. THE TLC PROVED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AND VOCAL PRESSURE GROUP WHICH OFTEN OPPOSED THE GOVERNMENT AND REPEATEDLY THREATENED TO STAGE A GENERAL STRIKE SHOULD THE THAI MILITARY ATTEMPT TO RETURN TO POWER. THE MILITARY TAKE-OVER OF OCTOBER 6 CAUGHT TLC LEADERSHIP UNAWARE AND UNABLE TO COUNT ON SUPPORT FROM STUDENT ALLIES. IT OFFERED NO OPPOSITION TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

2. ON OCTOBER 8 IN ITS FIRST STATEMENT FOCUSING ON LABOR, NARC ANNOUNCED THAT IT SEEKS TI IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES AND SANCTIONS THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS FORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LABOR RELATIONS ACT OF 1975. NARC ALSO ADVISED ALL ORGANIZATIONS NOT REPEAT NOT FORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LRA TO DISBAND. SINCE SECTION 44 AND MOST OF THE REMAINDER OF THE 1974 CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN DISCARDED BY NARC, THE TLC, NCTL AND LCC WOULD APPEAR DOOMED.

3. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ALSO ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 8 THAT ALL LABOR LAWS ARE STILL IN EFFECT AND THAT LABOR DISPUTES WOULD, DURING THE PERIOD OF MARTIAL LAW, BE RESOLVED THROUGH RTG LABOR DEPARTMENT MEDIATION OR WHEN ORDERED BY MOI, THROUGH COMPULSORY ARBITRATION OF THE LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE TR A SIMILAR BODY ESTABLISHED BY MOI. LOCKOUTS AND STRIKES HAVE BEEN PROHIBITED. CONTROVERSIAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE RTG LABOR DEPARTMENT NIKHOM CHANTHARAWITHUN HAS AGAIN ANNOUNCED PLANS TO LEAVE HIS POSITION AND GO TO WORK IN THE BANGKOK REGIONAL ILO OFFICE. (COMMENT: APPOINTMENT OF NIKHOM'S SHARPEST CRITIC, BOARD OF TRADE PRESIDENT OB WASURAT, TO THE NARC ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INTERIOR AFFAIRS AS WELL AS NIKHOM'S HASTY DEPARTURE, INDICATES NIKHOM MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO THE DOOR BY NARC. HIS DEPARTURE WILL BE WELCOMED BY BUSINESSMEN AND VIEWED WITH INDIFFERENCE BY LABOR LEADERS).

4. LABOR LEADERS ARE DISHEARTENED BY THE SUDDEN TURN OF EVENTS. EARLY FEARS THAT UNION AND TLC LEADERSHIP WOULD BE ARRESTED HAVE SUBSIDED BUT SEVERAL PEOPLE INCLUDING TLC PRESIDENT PHAISAN THAWATCHAINAN ARE STAYING OUT OF SIGHT. ALTHOUGH UNION EXECUTIVES EXPRESS RELIEF THAT UNIONS AND FEDERATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN FORBIDDEN, THERE IS LITTLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ENTHUSIASM AT THIS TIME FOR ANOTHER ROUND UNDER THE NEW RULES.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR LAW, POLICIES, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO28204
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760382-1316
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761062/aaaacbxv.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ORGANIZED LABOR AND NARC SUMMARY: IN ITS FIRST ANNOUNCEMNT ON LABOR THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COUNCIL (NARC) REQUESTED ALL
TAGS: ELAB, TH, NAT ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COUNCIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006